

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 11967 091631Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 /035 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO USDOC WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS CARACAS 11967

PASS TO OED/MEPD AND OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, BEXP, VE
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: SHIPBUILDING-ASTINAVE-COVINCA

REF: (A) CARACAS 7544, (B) CARACAS 6428, (C) CARACAS 1410

1. COVINCA-ASTILLEROS ESPANOLAS, A CONSORTIUM FORMED TO BUILD A SHIPBUILDING AND REPAIR YARD ON PARAGUANA PENINSULA, HAS BEEN RENAMED ASTILLEROS NAVALES VENEZOLANOS S.A. (ASTINAVE). BOTH ENTITIES HAVE SUBSCRIBED THE INITIAL PERCENTAGE OF EQUITY WITH THE REMAINDER TO BE PAID IN AT SHORT-TERM INTERVALS. EQUITY PROVIDED BY SPANISH WAS NOT IN FORM OF EQUIPMENT SO THAT COVINCA WOULD BE ABLE TO PURCHASE MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT ON BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC TENDERS.

2. OFFICES OF ASTINAVE ARE LOCATED AT COVINCA, AVENIDA FRANCISCO DE MIRANDA, CHACAITO; TORRE EUROPA, PISO 5; CARACAS. ALMIRANTE JOSE CONSTANTINO SEIJAS VILLALOBOS IS SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF ASTINAVE.

3. INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LICITATION FOR EQUIPMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1978. IN ADDITION TO ITEMS IN PAR. Y, REF. B, SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE ESPECIALLY COMPETITIVE FOR
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HYDROMATICS, PANELING GEAR, AND TRANSFER SYSTEMS.

4. COVINCA CONSIDERING ENGINEERING/CONSULTING FIRM TO MONITOR PERFORMANCE OF ASTILLEROS ESPANOLAS. SELECTION WILL NOT RPT NOT BE MADE BY PUBLIC LICITATION. ONLY U.S. FIRM UNDER CONSIDERATION IS J.J. HENRY. ONE BRITISH AND ONE SINGAPORE FIRM ARE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOS TEQUES-PUNTO FIJO AREA WILL BE COORDINATED WITH THE OIL COMPANIES, LAGOVEN AND MARAVEN, WHO ARE CONSTRUCTING AND EXPANDING REFINERY CAPACITY AT AMUAY AND CARDON ON THE PENINSULA (SEE REF C). INITIAL PLANS ARE TO BUILD TEMPORARY CAMPS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WHILE PERMANENT URBAN TOWNSHIPS ARE BEING DEVELOPED. U.S. FIRM HOLMES AND NARVER MADE PRESENTATION TO ASTINAVE ON TOWNSHIPS THAT WAS WELL RECEIVED.

6. ASTINAVE ALSO PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A PORT IN THE LOS TAQUES-PUNTO FIJO AREA.

7. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN PARS 5 AND 6 ABOVE, AS IT BECOME AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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TAGS: BENC, BEXP, VE
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